

April 17, 2015

News Release

For Immediate Release

Choose Environmental Excellence Awards Presentation



The **Fifteenth Annual Springfield/Greene County Choose Environmental Excellence awards were presented Friday, April 17, 2015**, at a luncheon held at the White River Conference Center in Springfield, Missouri, as a part of Springfield's Earth Day/Earth Month festivities. Twelve organizations presented a total of twenty awards.

The Watershed Committee of the Ozarks awarded accomplishments which assist in the Watershed Committee's mission to protect the area's water resources. Mike Kromrey, Executive Director, presented the award.

Fred Palmerton was recognized for a lifetime of service and involvement with major projects and decisions related to Springfield's water supply. Throughout his more than fifty year career as an engineer, Fred worked on many projects that required careful attention to water resources. These projects spanned the gamut, ranging from bridges to stormwater to airports. In spite of his aggressive workload, Fred has always been very involved in many community groups and professional organizations. Most recently, he co-chaired both the Citizen's Stormwater Task Force and the Environmental Priorities Task Force with Dan Hoy to help sort out the complexities of community priorities and funding challenges. Fred is a skillful engineer who recognizes the value of clean water, and for that the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks was honored to present Fred Palmerton with this award. (Contact: Mike Kromrey 417-866-1127)

Solid Waste Management District "O" Executive Board members recognized efforts toward waste reduction and recycling with their Environmental Service Awards. District "O" covers the counties of Christian, Polk, Dallas, Greene and Webster. Robert Hamilton, District Planner, presented the award.

Mike Frazier, General Manager, of WebCo Custom Industries in Marshfield, which houses the Webster County Recycling Center, formerly known as the Warren Beck Recycling Center, was recognized as their first award recipient. In his year and a half at WebCo, Mike has completely revamped the Recycling Center's method of operation. Under his guidance, it has changed dramatically and grown rapidly. Recycling is a major employment component for the special needs employees of WebCo. During his tenure, WebCo has made a dramatic turn – around – going from losing approximately \$35,000 to \$40,000 dollars per year on their recycling operation to breaking even. He also services over 20 remote recycling operations in District "O." Mike has been the Project Manager for several District "O" grants to WebCo, and working with him on these projects is always a pleasure. He is highly organized, very efficient, and a good steward of the grant funds they've received. A voting alternate for the District "O" Executive Board, Mike attends faithfully and can always be counted upon to make up their quorum. He has shown a true commitment to furthering the mission of the District and ensuring its continued success. He has served as a strong advocate for the statewide District Grant Program and testified on behalf of District "O" before the Missouri Senate Joint Committee on Solid Waste District Operations.

Ronda Long was recognized with their second award for her years of dedicated service as the District's Associate Planner from 2003 to 2015. Ronda's responsibilities included

administering the District grants and providing service to the Executive Board and to the general public with inquiries about waste reduction and recycling services. The past few years saw a very welcome increase in grant funds available for District "O," but with that also came a dramatic increase in administrative demands – paperwork! Ronda was very thorough, pleasant and patient with the sub grantees and MDNR staff and played a key role in District "O"'s excellent audit reports year after year. In the past couple of years, she has been an asset to District "O" legislators by being able to provide concise, factual information about the workings of a Solid Waste District and the challenges facing them.

The Springfield/Greene County Environmental Advisory Board recognized a business, agency, group or individual that has gone beyond normal practices to promote, improve or support sustainable, environmentally conscious activities. This year, the Board was very pleased to recognize two individuals for their award. Chair, Randall Willoughby, made the presentations.

Dr. David M. Fraley, was recognized as their first award recipient. Dr. Fraley was the Director of Environmental Affairs for City Utilities of Springfield, Missouri, until his recent retirement after 34 years of faithful service. He began his career with City Utilities in 1981. He holds a BS in Environmental Chemistry from Missouri State University (MSU) and MA and PhD degrees in analytical environmental chemistry from the University of Missouri - Columbia. During his tenure with CU, Dave was responsible for compliance programs under federal and state laws governing clean air, clean water, toxic substances, and hazardous waste. He has served on the Greene County Local Emergency Planning Committee -- dealing with hazardous chemicals in the community. The plaque we presented included a simple graph that speaks volumes to Dave's legacy. In easily understood terms that greatly over simplify all the effort and fiscal investment that were required to achieve this accomplishment, it shows the dramatic reduction of harmful emissions from City Utilities facilities from 1980 to 2015 – from 71.6 pounds/megawatt hour to just under 4.8 pounds -- a reminder of but one of the facets of Dave's career. As a community, we are indebted to Dave's dedication and sincere passion for protecting the natural environment in which we live and work and play. The EAB is very appreciative to Dave for his many years of service as a staff resource and supporter and for the example he set as an environmental steward.

Randy Lyman, Environmental Compliance Officer for the Department of Environmental Services, was recognized as their second award recipient. Randy joined the City of Springfield in November, 1971. Since that time, he has served the citizens of our community, assisted local businesses and industries and, always, held a passion for doing right by our natural environment. Randy grew up in the out of doors and developed an appreciation for the beautiful features of the Ozarks. Given his long tenure of service, it is said that Randy knows where the bodies are buried and he is also the City's in-house detective – he is famous for his ability to sniff out polluters and has solved several very interesting cases. On a more serious note, Randy has been instrumental in cultivating the positive relationship the City enjoys with the businesses and industries we serve. He is respected for his knowledge and his fairness and liked for his pleasant demeanor – an altogether desirable profile of a public servant. Randy is a graduate of (then) Southwest Missouri State College and has received a number of professional awards during his career, including the Golden Manhole Cover Award, presented by the Missouri Water Environment Association exemplifying the high regard in which he is held by his peers. He has been a valued staff resource to the members of the Springfield-Greene County Environmental Advisory Board, keeping them informed and providing useful information, often translated from complicated technical terms to understandable layman's language. The plaque presented features a beautiful photo of the clear and clean waters of Wilson Creek,

immediately below the Southwest Wastewater Treatment Plant – a reminder of Randy’s part in protecting those waters. (Contact: Barbara Lucks – 417- 864-2005)

The Ozarks Clean Air Alliance, a subcommittee of the Environmental Collaborative of the Community Partnership of the Ozarks, presented an award to recognize efforts made to benefit the health of citizens in the region through air quality protection and improvement. Natasha Longpine, Chair, presented the award.

Dr. David M. Fraley was recognized with their award. As has been mentioned, Dr. Dave Fraley was Director of Environmental Affairs for City Utilities of Springfield. Dave has also served as the Environmental Committee chair for the American Public Power Association (APPA) National Conference. He has conducted training sessions on a variety of environmental issues at local, regional, and national workshops. Dr. Fraley taught courses on environmental regulation and environmental health at MSU from 1999 to 2007 and served on the Advisory Committees for the MSU College of Natural and Applied Sciences. He was also a founding member of Ozarks Clean Air Alliance, and an original member of the Environmental Collaborative of the Community Partnership of the Ozarks. Dr. Fraley has been instrumental in the development and sustainability of the Ozarks Clean Air Alliance and in efforts to raise the awareness in our region to the importance of protecting our air quality. Working with members of the OCAA, his thoughtful and practical contributions to the writing and updating of OCAA’s Clean Air Action Plan have resulted in its acceptance as the Path Forward for both EPA’s Ozone Advance Program and Particulate Matter Advance Program, paving the way for future air quality protection efforts. It is with great pleasure that the Ozarks Clean Air Alliance recognized Dr. Dave Fraley in celebration of his long and successful career. (Contact: Barbara Lucks 864-2005)

The Tree City USA Citizen Advisory Committee recognized efforts toward protecting and enhancing Springfield's community forest. Casey Kellner, Springfield Public Works Department Urban Forester, and Jane Earnhart, Immediate Past Committee Chair, made the presentation. In addition to these awards, a tree will be registered in the Springfield Tree Registry in honor of each recipient.

Blayne Radford, Grounds Management Supervisor for Springfield Public Schools, was their first award recipient. In this capacity, he oversees grounds-related maintenance for 68 properties, including responsibilities for District grounds personnel, budget, a variety of new construction projects, such as parking lots, athletic fields and playgrounds, and participation in the planning and execution of capital construction/major renovation projects, working with architects, engineers and contractors. His commitment to protecting and enhancing the tree canopy is evident in his work. He is also committed to using environmentally responsible practices in the management of the 20+ athletic fields under his responsibility, as well as enhancing the curb appeal of the District’s buildings and grounds. His influence on the long range landscaping and maintenance planning for the District ensures the District’s grounds are safe and attractive for future enjoyment. He was recently successful in securing two TRIM grants to complete a district wide tree inventory and management plan. An ISA Certified Arborist, he has also just become a Municipal Specialist. As a professional that recognizes the importance of trees in both our natural and urban environments, TCUSACAC was very pleased to recognize Blayne Radford.

Joe Fearn, Head Groundskeeper at Drury University, was their second award recipient. As the Head Groundskeeper, Joe is responsible for the management and oversight of the maintenance and enhancement of the landscaping and landscape ecology of the Drury University campus. Recently, Drury was recognized as an Arbor Day Foundation Tree Campus for the first time and earned the 2013 Missouri Releaf Exceptional Planting Award. A self-proclaimed tree hugger, Joe is especially interested in how the modern landscape can answer sustainability and ecological questions. He believes the current landscaping model is

in decline and he is eager to see, and direct, what the future of landscaping will look like. His talents also include bringing unlikely demographic allies into the landscaping discussion.

As a professional whose vision and leadership is shaping the world he touches, TCUSACAC was very pleased to recognize Joe Fearn. (Contact: Casey Kellner – 864-1135)

The Greater Ozarks Audubon Society (GOAS) recognized exemplary efforts toward their mission of promoting bird conservation in southwest Missouri. Charles Burwick, presented the award.

Lisa Berger was recognized with their award. Lisa's conservation work with Greater Ozarks Audubon began about 1981, when she served as Publicity Chair for the newly chartered chapter of the National Audubon Society. She was active until 1987, when she embarked on a Masters Degree. In 1997, Berger served as Vice-President, taking the lead to organize and host National Audubon's West Central Regional Conference. This was an invigorating time for the Chapter; hosting the multi-state event built collective confidence and capacity, engaging many GOAS volunteers. During this time she participated on the Missouri Audubon Council, and on the board of the Audubon Society of Missouri.

From 1998-2001, she served three years as GOAS President, and assumed the editor positions for the Newsletter and Publications; and in 2005, the Web. In 1999, the State Office of the National Audubon Society, Audubon Missouri (AM), was opened. By 2001, the state arm of the National Bird Conservation Initiative, the Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative (MoBCI) was launched by Audubon Missouri and the Missouri Department of Conservation. At the same time, National Audubon began implementing the Important Bird Areas (IBA) program across the US, through state offices.

Lisa began to serve on the Audubon Missouri Board of Trustees, and the MoBCI planning committee. These initiatives were designed to focus and coordinate volunteer support as well as State and Federal agency funding for biogeographical-scale habitat restoration, informing agency strategic planning for years to come. She was appointed Audubon Missouri Steering Committee Chair, charged to work with a Technical Committee to establish a scientifically-based process to prioritize and evaluate Important Bird Area (IBA) site nominations, state-wide. Many GOAS volunteers worked to nominate seven sites that were later designated Missouri IBAs. Chapter members witnessed the global results of organizing and acting locally. With the stage set, this was the time to forge partnerships and collaborate with other non-profits. Berger began working with Dr. Janice Greene, faculty member with MSU's Biology Department, to explore ways for GOAS and MSU to work together. MSU's Bull Shoals Field Station is located within the (then recently designated) White River Glades and Woodlands IBA, which presented opportunities for both entities. She and Janice discussed developing a "hands-on, youth conservation education camp."

In 2008, National Audubon and Toyota announced the *TogetherGreen* Innovation grant program, available to Audubon chapters, centers, and state offices. Berger wrote and submitted a grant application for the long-envisioned camp. The chapter was awarded \$26,000, and the Green Leadership Academy (GLADE) was born. The chapter secured partial *TogetherGreen* funding for two additional years, with Berger's subsequent grant applications. With the enthusiasm of an ultra dedicated staff and hundreds of volunteers, early financial support from non-profits, such as Community Foundation of the Ozarks, MSU, the L-A-D Foundation, the GOAS Endowment, and more recently, Audubon Society of Missouri and many others, GLADE is hosting its seventh season!

Lisa currently serves on the GOAS board and as Publications Chair. She heads up two Breeding Bird Survey routes, (since 2001 and 2004). She just retired from her successful 35-year career, selling Consulting Analytical Services, Inc., an environmental testing laboratory, in March, 2015. (Contact: Dr. Janice Greene 836-5306)

The Environmental Collaborative of the Community Partnership of the Ozarks recognized efforts exemplifying partnering and working together to foster an appreciation of the role of a healthy natural environment in the health and well being of the southwest Missouri region. Trent Sims, Director of the Community Collaborative Initiative, presented the award.

Randy Lyman, Environmental Compliance Officer for the Department of Environmental Services, was recognized for their award. Mr. Lyman joined the City of Springfield in November of 1971. It is often said that in the environmental world, it all flows downhill. The City of Springfield has earned a number of very impressive awards for excellence in the performance of their wastewater treatment plants and all members of the team must do their part. Randy's ability to provide technical assistance and guidance to the businesses and industries that empty into the sewage system that ultimately ends up at the City's wastewater treatment plants plays an important role in maintaining the consistently high performance that earns annual awards for the plants. Randy is one of the original members of the Environmental Collaborative and has shared timely information with the group for many years. He is, truly, a walking historian – fluent in the knowledge of the evolution of our community's awakening to the importance of safeguards to our water quality and in the history of the wastewater industry's progress from a simple pipe that emptied into the nearest body of flowing water to the highly regulated and sophisticated operating systems of today. (Contact: Barbara Lucks – 417-864-2005)

Springfield Plateau Chapter Missouri Master Naturalist recognized the outstanding contributions of an individual toward conservation of the natural environment. Springfield Plateau Chapter President, Bob Korpella, presented the award.

Marlyss Simmons was recognized with their award. Marlyss is truly deserving of this year's Choose Environmental Excellence Award. A 2009 Missouri Master Naturalist graduate, she served as a chapter officer for three consecutive years. Marlyss has participated in the Barry County Watershed Festival, works on the team that is cataloging Valley Water Mill flora, and monitors water quality at two sites on Flat Creek as part of the Ozarks Water Watch Program. Marlyss also participates each year in events held by our chapter partners such as the Butterfly Festival and Young Sprouts. She often presents programs as diverse as native plants, furs, and stream monitoring to audiences from children through adults. This year, the Springfield Plateau Chapter Missouri Master Naturalist awarded its very first scholarship to college bound, graduating high school seniors. Marlyss was part of the Scholarship Committee from its inception and also helped select this year's scholarship recipient. In addition to being a Missouri Master Naturalist, Marlyss is also a member of the Missouri Native Plant Society.

Missouri State University Sustainability Advisory Committee recognized efforts demonstrating a sustained commitment to environmental excellence, programming that makes an impact on environmental excellence, outcomes that indicate the award winner is making a difference. President for Administrative and Information Services and Tamera Jahnke, Dean, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, made the presentation.

The William H. Darr School of Agriculture was their award recipient. MSU's Darr Agricultural Center is the location of a significant water reclamation project -- one of many projects funded by the Springfield-Greene County Urban Watershed Stewardship Project (nicknamed Big Urbie), to reduce runoff and improve water quality. The federal grant was awarded to the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks in 2011 by U.S. EPA Region 7 through the Missouri Department of Natural Resources under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act.

The rainwater collection system can capture 20,000 gallons of water from the roof of Pinegar Arena to be stored in underground tanks until it is used for dust suppression inside the arena – both reducing the amount of runoff and conserving drinking water.

A second phase of the Big Urbie project is focused upon filtration plantings of grasses, shrubs and trees along each side of South Creek that flows through the Darr Agricultural Center. These sustainability projects were aided by both the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

In addition to what is underway at the Darr Agricultural Center, projects are also in progress on all of the MSU Darr School of Agricultural managed facilities. These include The Woodlands, Shealy Farm, Bakers Acres, the State Fruit Experiment Station, and the Journagan Ranch. With the help of the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed which has set into motion a series of key practices at each of these managed facilities. The MOU is comprehensive and integrative as it focuses on the stewardship of timberland, grasslands, and water resources while being compatible with wildlife and agricultural enterprises – representing a plan that meets multiple goals and demands that are being experienced routinely by most landowners. It brings together multiple agencies, agricultural businesses, and educational institutions. The planning phase is near completion. The educational events for students are in progress and educational programs using many forms of communications for producers and consumers are being planned to start Fall of 2016.

An innovative agricultural industry has been key to the unique position the United States enjoys in the world. To achieve total sustainability, the integration of societal values, science, and economics must be achieved and especially in agriculture. The Darr School of Agriculture is proud to play a small role in this noble effort. (Contact: Ken McClure 836-5233, Dr. Tamera Jahnke 836-5249)

The James River Basin Partnership recognized outstanding efforts to protect the water quality in the James River Basin. Melissa Bettes, Project Manager, presented the award.

Kyle Bentley was recognized with their award. Mr. Bentley has been involved with River Rescue since 2003 as part of the Stream Team Program with a group of young men from Wilson Creek Group Home facilitated by the Missouri Division of Youth Services (DYS). In later years, Kyle became the manager of the Group Home. Kyle's goal then, as it is now, is to connect kids to the environment as this connection is both restorative and rehabilitative. The reception and acceptance the young men at the Group Home received really caused them to rise to the occasion and River Rescue became something more. Kyle's role changed, both within DHS and within JRBP enabling another level of participation, including more kids at the event and serving in a different capacity.

Educationally, Kyle has a BS in Wildlife Conservation and Management with minors in Biology and Geology from Missouri State University. Professionally, Kyle spent the last 15 years with the Missouri Division of Youth Services and is currently a Trainer Technician II and oversees the southwest region's employee professional development program. Kyle is heavily involved in the Adventure Based Counseling Program that seeks to rehabilitate at-risk teens using the outdoors as a treatment tool.

Other environmental efforts with which Kyle has been involved include being selected as a Missouri Stream Team Volunteer Water Quality Monitor of the Year, featured in the MDNR "Missouri Resources" publication for work with the kids and several joint tree plantings and cleanups with the Springfield Fly Fishers.

Kyle's certifications include the American Canoe Association Level 3 River Canoe and Level 4 Swift Water Rescue Instructor, Wilderness Medical Associates Wilderness Advanced First Aid

and Emergency Care, and Safety Institute CPR/AED/First Aid Instructor. Additionally, Kyle serves as a City Alderman and School Board Secretary in Crane. (Contact: Melissa Bettles, Project Manager 836-4847)

The City of Springfield – Department of Environmental Services (DES) presented awards for the first time this year in five categories recognizing outstanding performance by businesses, industries, individuals or groups toward protecting the natural environment of our community and region. Presenters included: Tana Pulles, Education Outreach Specialist, (Air Quality); Sarah Davis, Stormwater Technician, (Water Quality); Randy Lyman, Environmental Compliance Officer, (Clean Water Services); Erick Roberts, Superintendent of Solid Waste Management (Solid Waste Management); Errin Kemper, Assistant Director of the Department of Environmental Services with Todd Wagner, Principal Engineer, Stormwater Services Division of the Public Works Department (Community Engagement).

DES – Solid Waste Management

Ripple Glass of Kansas City, Missouri, was recognized with their award. Their tag line reads “Rest Easy, Your Glass is in a Better Place” and Springfield can certainly attest to that. Glass can be very difficult to recycle unless you happen to have a glass refractory in your town, which we don’t. But we have the next best thing – a company that accepts our glass (all colors mixed together – no separation needed), transports it, crushes it to a manufacture’s specifications and markets it all at no cost to the City. Ripple Glass celebrated their 5-year anniversary in 2014, having recycled over 100,000 tons of glass in those 5 years. Springfield shipped 1403 tons of glass with Ripple in 2014. To put this into perspective, that’s an energy savings that could operate a TV for 607,967 hours compared to making the glass from scratch. 561,200,000 watts of energy were saved.

Ripple Glass was recognized with their Choose Environmental Excellence Award, for their role in enabling Springfield to become a regional hub for glass recycling. For example, the Urban Districts Alliance and Center City entertainment venues have now recycled well over 1 million “adult beverage containers” thanks to the availability of the Ripple partnership. Ripple has allowed the City to expand their glass recycling from around 375 tons a year (before Ripple) to the 1,400 + of last year.

Dairy Farmers of America (DFA) was recognized with their second award. Our Springfield Dairy Farmers of America is a part of a national cooperative with over 14,000 producer members. Formed in 1998, DFA has been a vital part of the Springfield Agricultural economy. The Springfield plant produces dairy-based coffee beverage products and, in 2013, made a major commitment to recycle the hundreds of tons of glass that is generated at the plant. In 2013, they recycled 522,900 pounds and in 2014, 610,560 pounds or 305 tons. DFA brings their glass to the City’s glass recycling collection center, where it joins other glass collected at the City Recycling Drop Off Centers, from local food/beverage establishments and from recycling centers in surrounding communities. It is transported to Kansas City by Ripple where it is processed and sold to Owens Corning and becomes fiberglass building insulation. In 2014, DFA’s glass produced insulation sufficient for 1952 standard attic spaces.

Recycling is all about closing loops and this loop has a particularly good close – Ripple grants a portion of the insulation back to the community that sends them the glass for recycling for use in not-for-projects, such as Habitat for Humanity homes. Not only did DFA’s glass save landfill space, it also produced energy conserving insulation for affordable homes. “Rest Easy, Your Glass is in a Better Place.” DFA is the consummate environmental steward. In fact, there was discussion whether to recognize them for their water quality protection or their recycling efforts. They are also a participating Ozarks GreenScore

company, earning the highest Green Level rating. The Solid Waste Management Division was pleased to recognize Dairy Farmers of America – Springfield for their long-time commitment to environmental stewardship and to our community.

DES – Air Quality

3M of Springfield was recognized with their award. Springfield's 3M Industrial Adhesives and Tapes Division has been a vital part of Springfield's manufacturing economy since 1967, currently occupying 330,000 square feet under roof on 31 acres and manufacturing 1500 finished products. Through those decades, they have demonstrated a long-standing commitment to the health and well-being of our natural environment and to our community. 3M Springfield's Environmental Health and Safety Management System team has been responsible for addressing a multitude of regulatory and compliance challenges as regulations evolved over the past decades.

In just one example, from 2001 to 2013, Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) air emissions were reduced by 76% because of an investment in improvements in their pollution control equipment. They have always worked willingly and proactively to meet or exceed a wide variety of regulatory requirements, not only related to air quality, but in other areas, as well. 3M Springfield was recognized for their many decades of exemplary efforts in environmental stewardship.

DES – Water Quality

Gillespie Excavating Company, LLC was recognized as their award recipient. From the beginning of the City's land disturbance program in 2009, Gillespie Excavating has consistently complied with land disturbance regulations which are designed to keep sediment and other construction – related pollutants out of local waterways. Gillespie has also demonstrated great care in the installation and maintenance of tree protection zones on City projects, protecting the City's urban tree canopy. When situations do arise which could potentially negatively impact the environment, they have been quick to call and communicate with City staff so the issues can be addressed efficiently and appropriately. Considerate and responsive, Gillespie Excavating is a model of how construction can be performed in an environmentally responsible manner.

Clean Water Services

Kraft Foods was recognized with their Choose Environmental Excellence Award recognizing Kraft's efforts and accomplishments toward conserving water and protecting the water quality of our region by using innovative technology and pre-treatment processes. Kraft has been a significant manufacturing employer in Springfield for 75 years. The company began producing cheese in 1939 on the second floor of a building on West Mill Street before moving to their current Bennett Street site in 1954. They have expanded the physical plant and production lines through the years and now have 780,000 square feet of production and distribution space with more than 900 employees, along with a number of temps and contractors. They have achieved the highest Green Level rating in Ozarks GreenScore. Kraft has a long-standing history of implementing water conservation and pollution prevention measures as a part of their corporate culture. They commit to environmental compliance through their production and sanitation departments partnering to send only the minimum amount of waste and sanitation chemicals to the effluent, while being conscientious of their water usage. Kraft has also introduced a Reverse Osmosis system for their permeate, which has reduced their BOD levels going into the city sewer system, while providing a viable food source of animal feed from the permeate. Kraft excels, not only in the environmental arena, but was also recognized as the Springfield Business Journal's #2 Choice Employer in the 300+ Employees Category in 2011.

Community Engagement

Fred Palmerton and Dan Hoy were recognized with this award. They co-chaired the Springfield/Greene County Stormwater Task Force from the Fall of 2012 to the Summer of 2013. Together, they effectively led the committee to face the funding challenges that the City and County are currently experiencing head on. They motivated the group to become educated regarding the often unnoticed tasks of protecting water quality, maintaining stormwater infrastructure and reducing the effects of flooding. Under the strong leadership of Fred and Dan, the task force developed a funding package that would reasonably address the needs that exist and be considered a realistic and palatable option to the public.

Later, the duo was called on to again chair a very important Citizen Task Force, this time for the City, County and City Utilities as they embarked on an exciting, although somewhat daunting task – to produce the nation’s first Integrated Plan for encompassing environmental regulations, unmet infrastructure needs and aging infrastructure requirements at one time. Components include Air Quality, Wastewater, Stormwater, Drinking Water and Solid Waste or Land regulations. The Citizens’ Environmental Priorities Task Force provided the community input – a sense of our priorities and values – that will provide guidance through the process, working hand in hand with regulators EPA and MDNR. Dan Hoy and Fred Palmerton were recognized for their hours of service, their dedication and their leadership.

Springfield Urban Agriculture Coalition presented their Golden Shovel Award to recognize efforts to support sustainably produced and locally grown food and the positive impact it has on the health of our bodies and the environment. Ashley Fears, Board Member, presented the award.

Ben Utne, the Dig In R-Twelve (DIRT) Project Coordinator, was recognized with their Golden Shovel Award. Ben’s two-year commitment as an AmeriCorps VISTA was an incredible contribution to SUAC, to our community and to the eight school gardens established within the Springfield Public School System. By coordinating the curriculum and working with staff and students to provide an enriching hands-on educational experience, he showed them the importance of sustainably produced and locally grown food as well as the positive impact it has on the health of our bodies and our environment. Ben chose to “dig in” and make a positive impact on the lives of many students.

For additional information, contact
Barbara Lucks, Project Coordinator,
Springfield-Greene County Choose Environmental Excellence - 417-864-2005.

For a listing of past and present awards, visit:

www.springfieldmogov.org/cee

www.OzarksEnvironment.com